

10/525537

Rec'd PCT/PTO 24 FEB 2005

ATTORNEY DOCKET No. 1716380**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As below named inventor(s), I/we declare that:

My/our residence, post office addresses and citizenships are as stated below next to my/our name(s); that I/we believe I/we am/are the original, first and sole/joint inventor(s) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention or design entitled:

STAPLER

the specification of which:

X is attached hereto; or

\_\_\_\_\_ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_, as Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

X was filed on August 26, 2003, as PCT international Application No. PCT/JP2003/010739

and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_

I/we hereby state that I/we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; and that I/we acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me/us to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I/we hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me/us on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed:

COUNTRY  
JapanNUMBER  
2002-255020DATE FILED  
August 30, 2002PRIORITY CLAIMED  
YES X No \_\_\_\_\_

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I/we hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) or PCT application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I/we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBERDATE FILEDSTATUS

I/we hereby appoint Robert J. Schneider (Reg. No. 27,383), John R. Crossan (Reg. No. 27,433), and Lilia I. Safonov (Reg. No. 45,967) of CHAPMAN AND CUTLER, using the address 111 West Monroe Street, Chicago, IL 60603, my/our attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and to file and prosecute any international patent applications filed thereon before any international authorities under the Patent Cooperation Treaty and I/we hereby authorize him to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/firm/organization who/which first sends/sent this case to him and by whom/which I/we hereby declare that I/we have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I/we instruct him in writing to the contrary.

It is requested that all correspondence be directed to:

ROBERT J. SCHNEIDER  
CHAPMAN AND CUTLER  
111 WEST MONROE STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603

I/we hereby declare that all statements made herein of my/our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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Inventor's signature

Hisashi Kobayashi

Date:

February 7, 2005